

# EL PASO HERALD

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## Protest Against New Fire Rate

INSURANCE men estimate that the new basis of rate making will result in increasing premiums in this city by 40 percent to 100 percent. The mayor's statement before the city council yesterday was a forceful presentation of the case against the rate makers. He outlined in telling fashion the course of argument that would be used by a committee of business men from this city protesting before the state rating board against the key rate applied to this city.

The time to take up this matter is right now. Delays are dangerous. The El Paso rate has not yet been even officially published and the information that came here was advance information—which fortunately gives us time to lodge our protest with likelihood of its receiving attention.

The chamber of commerce and other organizations of business men and property owners in this city should take action immediately and prepare to send a strong representative committee to Austin to present our claims to the state board. It is the opinion of the mayor and of many insurance men and business men that this city has not had credit for all of the improvement work that has been carried on since 1905, when the last report was made.

It appears from a study of the rating book that the key rates of cities as well as the final rates on individual risks are made through a mathematical process of adding or deducting certain percentages according to the presence of additional risks or additional safeguards. As to the plea made in some quarters that El Paso should not be forced to share the burdens due to defective conditions in other Texas cities, that position is not quite tenable; the whole science and practice of fire insurance are based on a sharing of burdens. When San Francisco was destroyed every community in the civilized world helped to contribute, through fire insurance, towards the city's restoration. If El Paso should burn, we would expect Fort Worth, Houston, and Dallas to contribute through the fire insurance reserve to this city's restoration, just as we should expect Chicago, New York, Denver, Los Angeles, and every other city to contribute—not directly, of course, in the way of donations, but through the system of fire insurance, which is after all merely a distribution of the risk and burdens.

The argument that El Paso should not pay any more for premium than it sustains in losses year by year is also untenable; such an argument might be applied with equal reason to the individual property owner, leading to a manifest absurdity, for every individual goes on paying his premium year after year without perhaps sustaining any fire loss in half a century. He is paying for protection just as the city is paying for protection, and not with an expectation of collecting back each year an amount equal to or greater than the sum he pays in premiums. Fire insurance, in other words, is in no sense an investment, but merely a "chipping in" by a large number of individuals to help repair the losses of a few individuals. A loss by fire is an absolute loss—a final destruction of wealth. When a man collects insurance money, it does not make good the loss; it merely distributes the burden and the same man who collects a fire insurance policy today will be contributing perhaps the next 20 years to pay the losses of thousands of other policy holders.

The situation calls for a vigorous presentation of facts and sound reasoning before the state rating board. Violent talk will avail nothing, neither will resolutions and letters of protest. The business men of El Paso must take action without delay to secure a hearing of El Paso's case at Austin before the final rating books are made up.

Old Mother Nature has been arrested at Roswell, N. M., for violating the Sunday law. She manufactured ice on the Sabbath day.

Already several conventions have been set to be held in El Paso fair week, November 1 to 7. El Paso's second annual fair will be twice as good and twice as well attended as was her first.

The Herald has extended its circulation area clear up into Oklahoma along the Rock Island road. There are few papers in the country, with a wider area of distribution than the El Paso Herald covers.

## The Great Underground Reservoir

SETTLERS in the Sulphur Springs valley near Douglas are actively at work trying to get the government interested in a project for watering the valley through developing the underground sources. One who has made a thorough study of the situation says that cowmen develop water by digging ditches from low ground to high ground, putting in wells at the end of the ditches and letting the water run into the low ground. He says water is so near the surface in many places that it is struck by mere postholes.

The Sulphur Springs valley is one of the best districts for successful dry farming, and it will be a rich agricultural country when the underground water is developed.

March 18 was Arbor day in New Mexico. The children at Alamogordo were given a half holiday and planted 239 trees, 258 roses, 160 vines and shrubs, 55 bulbs, and 198 lots of flower seeds. One hundred children reported that they had cleaned up their yards. Such an institution is worth a good deal in the proper education of the youngsters.

Douglas, Ariz., has a curfew law. The fire whistle blows at 8 o'clock every night and little boys and girls are supposed to be at home by that hour; if not, they are escorted home by the police. Little boys and girls run around this town at all hours during the night; what we need, however, is not a curfew law, but better trained parents.

It is told of judge Benedict, of New Mexico, that at one time in sentencing a prisoner to death for murder, he used the following remarkable language, which has now become famous among members of the legal profession: "The court was about to add, 'May God have mercy upon your soul'; but the court will not assume the responsibility of asking an all-wise Providence to do that which a jury of your peers has refused to do. It might be well for you to send for your priest and get from him such consolation as you can, but the court advises you to place no reliance upon anything of the kind."

The Moriarty (N. M.) Messenger thus portrays in picturesque language speaker Cannon's alleged downfall: "The rules committee has been the mainstay of the great boss; the speaker's cat's paw, the great pigeon hole in fact. By taking the naming of the committee away from the speaker, the house has destroyed Cannon's power to throttle legislation." That famous rules committee must truly be a remarkable animal, to be at one and the same time a mainstay cat's paw, and a pigeonhole. It would be a good idea to buy this beast for mayor Sweeney's Washington park zoo.

## UNCLE WALT'S Denatured Poem

NOW my weary heart is breaking, for my left hand tooth is aching, with a harsh, persistent rumble that is keeping folks awake; hollowed out by long erosion, it, with spasm and explosion, seems resolved to show the public how a dog-gone tooth can ache. Now it's quivering or quaking; now it's doing fancy aching, then it shoots some Roman candles which go whizzing through my brain; now it does some lofty tumbling, then again it's merely grumbling; and anon it's showing samples of spring novelties in pain. All the time my woe increases; I have kicked a chair to pieces, but it didn't seem to soothe me or to bring my soul relief; I have stormed around the shanty till my wife and maiden auntie said they'd pull their freight and leave me full enjoyment of my grief. I have made myself so pleasant that I'm quarantined at present, and the neighbors say they'll shoot me if I venture from my door; now a voice cries: "If thou'ldst wendest in the first place, to a dentist—it is strange that inspiration never came to me before!"

TOOTHACHE

around the shanty till my wife and maiden auntie said they'd pull their freight and leave me full enjoyment of my grief. I have made myself so pleasant that I'm quarantined at present, and the neighbors say they'll shoot me if I venture from my door; now a voice cries: "If thou'ldst wendest in the first place, to a dentist—it is strange that inspiration never came to me before!"

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## 14 Years Ago Today

CALL ISSUED FOR CONVENTION; MAN IS KILLED NEAR FABENS

W. T. Kitchens today called a convention of the Republican city executive committee to meet at the courthouse on April 4 at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

The wind was blowing at the rate of 40 miles an hour at 2 o'clock this morning and the temperature had dropped to 37½ at 6 o'clock. Trains from the east are delayed and fruit trees down the valley have been damaged, though no damage has been reported in the city.

Chief engineer H. C. Lowrie of the White Oaks road has returned from a five weeks' surveying trip to Saldaña, which is 55 miles up the road.

J. W. Anderson, of Hazelton, Kans., was found dead beside the G. H. railroad track three-quarters of a mile east of Fabens. There was no evidence of his having been struck by a train and it is believed he was riding a freight last night and fell off.

The lowest bidders for the construction of a hay barn at Fort Bliss are: R. C. Baker and G. L. Hitt.

Santa Fe freight trains are now being made up according to tonnage instead of the number of cars.

D. P. Stewart has bought Sarah F. Nairn's house on North El Paso street for \$500.

Samuel Shutz is erecting a porch in front of the water company's offices on San Antonio street.

Judge Magoffin and B. G. Thomas are experiencing considerable difficulty in securing data regarding the needs of a dam here, to be forwarded to Washington.

Metal market: Silver, 68½; lead, \$3; copper, 10c; Mexican pesos, 53c.

## Another Plea For the Dog

Editor El Paso Herald:

I was glad to read such a letter written by "A Woman Citizen," as appeared in Tuesday's Herald. She is right; that "wild and woolly" episode of the reckless shooting of dogs two years ago is, and will be, a blot on El Paso as long as it is remembered.

Pet dogs were snatched from children's arms and shot at their very feet while their little owners were forced to look on in heartbroken terror.

Life is dear to all living creatures, even the tiniest insect. An effort is being made to revive interest in the humane society. The secretary estimates that \$1000 a year will maintain this society. It will pay a salary to a person who can give both time and attention to all reported cases of cruelty and sufficient funds to prosecute if necessary.

Surely, by the united efforts of those interested, that amount might easily be raised with a population of 50,000.

With a society well established there will be no further difficulty. A number of names have been added, voluntarily, to the present list through The

Herald's plea for the betterment of humane conditions.

We lovers of animals admire the courage of one splendid El Paso woman who has gone fearlessly into the work. She relieves the tired and aching necks of horses, held high with that cruel check rein; she forgets for the time her ill health and household duties and sets on the curb, if necessary, through a storm of oaths and abuse from the driver until that overloaded wagon is lightened to some extent.

Often this humanity is due to ignorance or carelessness, and frequently when these drivers are made to understand the cruelty, they are easily induced to a more humane treatment of their animals.

I enclose a clipping which covers the ground so perfectly it is well worth reprinting. Those who left their "summer pets" at Cloudford last year to be sold and then please take notice, and if such heartless neglect is repeated this year, just follow out some of the very good suggestions and "reach their pockets."

A Member of the H. S.

## Our Pets In Need of Charity

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

The following letter has been received from Brooklyn relative to a matter which has occupied the attention of humane minded people for many years, and which has caused pain and indignation in many communities, each season, when the exodus of summer and winter resorters takes place:

"A woman in this neighborhood has a nice little daughter, and a fine dark brown cat, a thorough house pet, timid to a degree as to noises.

"The girl loved and fed it, petted it, protected it from weather and neighboring cats, and seemed to love it dearly. But when the girl is away the woman is very unkind to the cat. She is one of these thin, long nosed women who clean house incessantly and always has a broom in her hand.

"In April she turned the poor cat out with the broom, shut doors and windows, and kept her out during the cold rain storms that persisted at that time. The yard has not a board or cloth of shelter, four walls with the place for grass, flat in the center and two clothes poles.

"Being a house pet the cat knew nothing outside of the place, so simply hung round staring at the house. Her pitiful pleading without cry of any kind, and her fruitless trials to push doors and windows, was pathetic in the extreme.

"I wrote the woman a little note, very kind, saying that whenever she was going away, or for any reasons wanted to get rid of her cat, to send her to the Humane society, whose address I enclosed, adding a few words to stir her pity, and that the societies were doing all in their power to care for the poor, dependent creatures.

"No change was made, and the weather growing more severe, sleep broken by thought of the little sufferer, I accepted a trip away, in the hope that something would happen before my return. On return, the daughter was there, petting, feeding; open doors and caressing continued, and I supposed that ended it. (Although restored, the poor little animal bore evident marks of suffering and fear.)

"A few days ago the daughter again left, and the cat is again thrown out of house and home. Now the woman and her husband have gone off somewhere, the house is shut up (temporarily, evidently) and here is the beginning of the third day.

"What can be done in such a case? The law can come in if a mother is bad to her child; the society cares for cats if taken to them; they do not call, and indeed would have no real reason in this case, as the cat is supposed to be cared for.

"Of course we know that a woman who would so treat a poor dependent creature would commit crime—that she will one day have certain punishment for this cruelty, that she will

never be happy, but all that does not help the cat.

"What would you say to do, and how could such a woman be reached? She is not of the common or foreign class, but a typical New England housewife—sharpened, perhaps by trouble, or worry. If not asking too much, please give some suggestions through the Evening Journal."

There is nothing which can be done in such a case, unless one goes to the trouble of finding who is the spiritual adviser of such a woman, seeking the man, and trying to awaken him to a sense of his responsibility in the matter.

A movement is now on foot to have an "Animal Sunday" in all the churches of the land.

The idea was suggested by the editors of "Our Dumb Animals," the organ of the Massachusetts S. P. C. A. That great and good man, George T. Angell, is founder of this paper, and for 15 years has been its editor.

"Animal Sunday" will be a day when, once a year at least, a sermon will be preached from every pulpit on the duty of man toward his dumb brothers.

Meantime, the S. P. C. A. and the humane association ought to work for a law which will make it a fineable offense for any woman to leave an animal uncared for in the manner described above. To reach the mind and heart of many people it is necessary first to reach the pockets.

Every autumn we remain late at our neighbor's home, and the beauty of the October days is marred by the sight of deserted cats left by summer cottagers, who have adopted a kitten in the early summer "because our children SO love pets," and who have heartlessly gone back to their town houses at the beginning of the school season and left the petted animal to become a homeless tramp.

It would be tenfold more merciful to take such a pet to the nearest veterinary to be chloroformed.

To find a home for a cat or dog is often possible if any one cares enough about the animal to make the effort.

As we stand, we shall reap.

Could such people be taught the law of Cause and Effect, which is named "Karma," and learn the fact that, as they sow they must reap; and as they misuse, ill-treat or neglect any living being, so they must suffer from ill use and neglect in later incarnations, it would help along the reform.

But while they are waiting for these results the poor cats and dogs are suffering; and all we can do about it is to keep agitating the subject until perhaps toward law and the clergy, and the newspapers, the day may arrive when there is no self respecting man or woman who will accept, through commission of cruelty or omission of care) the dumb creatures given into the charge of human beings.

Humane education is creeping into the schools; and that will do much toward making children merciful.

You, who read this article, can do your part by setting an example of mercy and thoughtfulness toward animals and in talking it to others.

Not only are you helping the animals, but you are helping make the human beings of the earth nearer the divine standard.

## GRAND OPERA: FACTS AND TRUTHS.

ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH IN THE STATES

By Frederic J. Haskin

WHEN the wonderful notes of Tetrastini's voice echoed through the Manhattan Opera House to the strains of "Lucia di Lammermoor," and the closing sweetness of Verdi's "Il Trovatore" were heard at the Metropolitan Opera House, another memorable opera season came to an end in America. It left music lovers not only in New York but in Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and all other cities further advanced than ever before in their ability to appreciate dramatic art set to music. Never before in the history of Musical America has grand opera taken such rapid strides as in the last five months.

Indeed, so important a factor in the artistic life of America has grand opera become that it is now being viewed as a financial asset and there are rumors of a gigantic combination—an operatic octopus.

The ground for these rumors is to be found in the fact that during the season just closed, a magnificent opera house was opened in Boston and before the baton waves again in New York there will be a similar institution in Chicago. Both of these are to have "stocking agreements" with the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, the millionaires' institution. And only a few weeks ago the press of the east was filled with statements and denials concerning a proposed consolidation or amalgamation of Oscar Hammerstein's Manhattan Opera organization with the older institution on Broadway.

In the discussion of this combination it was stated that some such agreement has become absolutely necessary adequately in America to produce opera of the rival organizations have become so strenuous that the salaries of Europe's song birds have soared to fabulous figures. As a concrete example it may be stated that Caruso receives \$5,000 for a single performance, while Tetrastini, Mary Garden, Mazarin, Bondi, Geraldine Farrar and others are paid sums which would stagger the average impresario of Italy, England, France or Germany. The real competition between the two companies permits artists to demand a certain number of performances each season and the manager has to pay for these performances whether or not he is able to give them during the season.

It was to meet this problem of guaranteed performances that caused both the Metropolitan and the Manhattan organizations to extend their activities to Philadelphia and other cities.

New York prides itself upon being the center of operatic appreciation in America, and the source from which has sprung a national love for dramatic music, but as a matter of fact opera was founded in New Orleans more than half a century before New York had its first gala night.

The introduction of opera to America took place in 1790 when a French refugee from San Domingo landed in New Orleans and offered opera in the Crescent City. The success of the venture was the result of the success of the venture was the result of the success of the venture.

As compared with other forms of entertainment and education in the theater, grand opera is a comparatively recent institution. It is true that the Greeks are supposed to have had their tragedies to a sort of chant, and that the Romans did likewise, but opera as we know it had its birth in the 16th century.

Of course it did not spring full grown like Minerva from the brow of some Jove-like composer, but was preceded by what have been termed "premonitory symptoms," one of the most interesting of which was a grand ballet organized by the Piedmontese violinist known as Balloche de Beaumont.

This ballet he called "Circe, ou le ballet comique de la Reine" and it was given on Sunday, Oct. 15, 1581, in the Palais du Petit-Bourbon in honor of the marriage of the queen's sister.

The plot of this "premonitory symptom" is of interest in comparison with the elaborate stories of present-day opera. A gentleman hastening to announce the reign of peace and plenty to his master, Christian majesty is waylaid by Circe, and by her magic is transformed into a pig. He is then rescued by the gods and goddesses of Olympus to liberate him but all means fail until the royal word works the charm—all a very palpable compliment to the king.

However crude this work may have been, our modern presentations do not approach it in the magnificent settings and the cost of this first production.

THE FIRST OPERA.

From Beaumont (Tex.) Enterprise. Mexico is to enter the lists as a competitor of Texas in growing Bermuda onions.

LOVETT'S "RED TIE." From Beaumont (Texas) Journal. Even after the El Paso Herald had put a red necktie on Judge Lovett, he simply smiled and refused to say anything for publication.

IN DRY SEASON? From Mexico City Record. The international boundary commission has no monopoly on being the only persons who have not been able to discover through what part of El Paso the Rio Grande meanders.

BUSY TIMES AHEAD. From Tucson (Ariz.) Star. Track laying in southern Pima promises to be quite the thing this coming summer. With the Calabasas connection made, the El Paso & Southern heading this way and the Silver Bell road reaching in the direction of deep water at Port Lobos, busy times are ahead.

The costumes were trimmed in solid gold and silver and the ornaments were real gems. The ancient chroniclers say that the cost of the production was \$1,200,000.

If this meant silver each it amounted to \$120,000; if gold \$1,200,000. All the Tetrastini, Nordica, Melba, Caruso, Slezak and Farrar in the chorus could not form such a sum for a single performance!

The world's first, almost-pure opera was "Dafne," the libretto by Rinuccini and the music by Peri. The performance was given in Corsica's palace, Florence, and the production, which was private, was either in 1555 or 1557, authorities differing on this point. "Euridice" with the libretto, by Rinuccini and music by Peri and Caccini, is generally supposed to have been the first serious Italian opera given a public performance. This was at the Pitti palace Oct. 5, 1600, and the occasion was the marriage of Maria de Medici to Henry IV of France.

Schools of Opera. There are many schools of opera and the rival among them often becomes very acrimonious. During the past season there has been much bickering about the alleged discrimination against the German or Wagnerian school at the Metropolitan Opera House.

As soon as the reports became so numerous that the board of directors finally had to give out a formal denial. At the Manhattan Opera House Mr. Hammerstein